



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Park Resident Injured in a Horse-Drawn Wagon Accident

Teton Interagency Dispatch received a phone call this morning, September 1, at 8:40 a.m. from Jackson Lake Lodge requesting emergency medical assistance for a wagon driver who received head injuries in an accident which occurred during the morning breakfast ride from Jackson Lake Lodge. Perrin Rutter, age 51, was driving a horse-drawn wagon when the horses became spooked by a moose in the willow bushes and suddenly ran for about 430 feet before stopping near a grove of trees. Rutter was thrown off her buckboard seat and injured as she fell to the ground. The accident occurred about three miles west of the lodge, along an old wagon road that runs between Jackson Lake Lodge and Colter Bay Village.

Grand Teton National Park rangers immediately responded to the scene of the accident from the nearby Colter Bay Ranger Station and a park ambulance arrived shortly after at 9:00 a.m. Park emergency medical technicians provided initial medical care to Rutter, but due to her injuries, summoned a life flight helicopter for transport to a local hospital. Portneuf Regional Medical Center sent a life flight ship which arrived at 9:50 a.m. and flew Rutter to the Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls for further treatment.

When the accident occurred, two lodge guests were riding aboard the wagon with Rutter. Neither of these passengers was injured in the incident.

Rutter lives in Grand Teton National Park with her husband John, who is the senior vice president and chief operating officer for Grand Teton Lodge Company.

Grand Teton National Park 75th Anniversary ~ 1929-2004
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